

Director's Report

Higher Education Coordinating Board

Marc Gaspard, executive director

March 2002

Gov. Locke keynotes Yakima Valley GEAR UP event

By Marc Gaspard

As the 2002 Legislature was preparing to adjourn its regular session on March 14, our GEAR UP staff were putting final touches on another great student event that featured Gov. Gary Locke.

The governor was the keynote speaker at a day-long event at the Yakima SunDome that attracted more than 1,600 sixth graders from the Yakima Valley. Accompanying the governor and me in Yakima were **John McLain**, GEAR UP director, and **Barbara Dunn**, HECB communications director.

More than 30 colleges and universities had booths from which students could get information and material about the schools, as well as talk with college representatives about future goals.

In his remarks, the governor challenged the students to be "pioneers, to be the first — first in your families, your communities, or your county. Become the first



zoologist, brain surgeon, jet engine mechanic, or president of the United States — wherever your heart and inspiration lead you.

"We want you to be committed to a life of education," the governor said.

The governor then spent about 30 minutes in a question-and-answer session with a group of students. Their questions were wide-ranging and provocative. At the end of the session, he spent several minutes signing autographs.

John McLain said the event "inspires students early to think of themselves as college material, and to

start planning and preparing while they're still in middle school."

McLain said having the governor address them and share his own personal success story is especially powerful.

"They know he's for real, and that he confronted many of the same challenges in getting his education that they also must overcome," McLain said. "As the first Chinese-American governor in the continental United States, he's a great role model."

Students were from Grandview, Granger, Mabton, Sunnyside, Toppenish, White Swan, the Yakama Nation, Zillah, Quincy, Wapato and Washington Middle School in Yakima.

The Yakima Valley GEAR UP program is a partnership of the University of Washington, the Northwest Community Action Center, the Providence Healthy Communities Alliance, Yakima Valley Community College and the Northwest Learning and Achievement Group.

John Klacik named president of national financial aid group

John Klacik, associate director for financial aid in HECB's Education Services Division, recently was chosen president-elect of the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP).

John assumes the role of president in October. He currently serves on the NASSGAP Executive Committee and has previously chaired the organization's Federal Relations committee and its Reauthorization Committee.

NASSGAP is the professional association representing the student aid agencies of all 50 states and the

nation's six territories.

NASSGAP is dedicated to promoting, strengthening and enhancing high standards in the administration and operation of student financial aid programs.

Members work to ensure these programs are available to students in all states, while working to expand higher education opportunities for students.

NASSGAP actively promotes better coordination between state and federal student aid programs.

The organization works closely with Congress to promote partner-

ships to provide student aid programs, especially relating to the federal Leveraging Educational Assistance Program (LEAP) and GEAR UP programs.

These two programs continue to be a major focus for the organization, as both programs are threatened in the current federal budget deliberations.

The state of Washington receives \$1.4 million through the LEAP program. These funds are used as matching dollars in the State Need Grant, State Work-Study and Educational Opportunity Grant (EOG) programs.

New Displaced Homemaker advisory members named

Several new members of the Displaced Homemaker Program (DHP) have been named and recently attended a new member orientation.

Among the new members are:

Debra Adams of Vancouver

Debra is a graduate of the Clark College DHP. She currently is the coordinator of advocacy and community outreach for Safe Choice Domestic Violence Program at the YWCA of Clark County.

Cindy Algeo of Spokane

Cindy is the resident initiatives manager for the Spokane Housing Authority Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

Delores Brown of Bellevue

Delores is the former chair of the board of trustees at Lake Washington Technical College and works for the City of Seattle Engineering Department.

Diane Crow of Spokane

Diane is a retired educator and former chair of the local DHP advisory committee in Spokane.

Laurel Turner of Gig Harbor

Laurel is a business owner and a student at the University of Washington Tacoma. She worked with displaced homemakers at the Wenatchee YWCA and sponsored outreach workshops in neighboring unfunded

counties.

Newly elected as chair is **Lucille Merget**, who has served as an advisory committee member since 1997.

She formerly worked with the DHP at Lake Washington Technical College. She is interested in ensuring service providers have the tools they need to offer quality services to displaced homemakers.

Other new agency-appointed members include:

Abby Cooper, DSHS Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Diane Klontz, CTED
Sue Kay, DSHS

Financial aid workshops scheduled for college administrators, staff

HECB staff are busily planning the next round of state Student Financial Aid workshops for the approaching academic year.

These workshops cover annual updates and provide basic training on State Need Grant, State Work Study, Educational Opportunity Grant and Washington Promise programs, in addition to some of the state's smaller programs.

Workshops are scheduled for:

Tuesday, May 14
Centralia Community College

Wednesday, May 15
Everett Community College

Thursday, May 16
South Seattle Community College

Monday, May 20
Yakima Valley Community College

Tuesday, May 21
Spokane Falls Community College

College savings, GET programs busy

College Savings Plan

A request for proposals (RFP) for investment services, account administration and participant services, and marketing services for a Washington college savings program went out on March 15.

A general information session for prospective bidders was held yesterday (March 26). RFP responses are due May 10.

The college savings program is expected to launch in late fall 2002.

GET Program gets busy

The GET program is beginning its peak enrollment period, with enrollment forms due by May 31 to open an account at this year's unit price of \$42.

Purchasers who open accounts by May 31 may contribute at this year's price until Aug. 31, 2002.

The GET Committee will set new unit prices this summer. Those prices will become effective Sept. 1, 2002.

GET statistics as of Feb. 28, 2002:



14,765 active accounts

2.8 million units purchased

\$117 million in total value of accounts